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THOUGHTS OF
A Lincolnshire Freeholder

ON THE LATE ADDRESS OF

Sir GILBERT HEATHCOTE, *K.*

Of Normanton-Park, in the County of Rutland, Bart.

TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF
THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN.

THE THIRD EDITION:

With *further* Additions; including a plain hint to Members of the House of Commons, concerning negligent Attendance; another, to those HIGH-SHERIFFS who have called County Meetings on *Saturdays*; another, to those *northern* Freeholders who are inclined to push *two* Members; an encomium on the *Military Operations* going forward at Grimsby; a tribute to Mr. Stone the Agriculturist; and, a Dialogue (explanatory of the Address) between Sir G. H. and a plain Lincolnshire Freeholder, Sep. 18th. 1794.

Printed by and for B. B. Kelsey:

And sold by him at Boston and Spilsby;
Marsh, Louth; Mozley, Gainsbrough; Whalley,
Grantham; Brooke, Lincoln; Thornhill, Sleaford;
and Newcomb, Stamford.

Price One Shilling.

THOUGHTS OF A LINCOLNSHIRE FREEDHOLDER

OF THE LATE ADDRESS OF
SIR GILBERT HEATHCOTE

OF MANCHESTER-PART, IN THE COURT OF MANCHESTER, PART

TO THE FREEDHOLDERS OF
THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN.

THE THIRD EDITION.

With further Additions: In Part to
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of the Address) between Sir G. H. and a friend of Lincoln-
shire Freedholders, Sep. 18th. 1794.



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And sold by him at Boston and Shipby:
Marsh, Lough; Mosley, Gainsborough; Wetherby;
Gainsborough; Brooks, Lincoln; Thorsland, Stamford;
and Newcomb, Stamford.

Price One Shilling.

April, 1796.

THOUGHTS

Lincolnshire Freeholder

LATE ADDRESS

OF

Sir GILBERT HEATHCOTE.

DISSOLUTIONS of Parliament sometimes happen unexpectedly, and in the space betwixt a Dissolution and a General Election, the small voice of reason is not heard very distinctly. I shall therefore endeavour to gain some attention to that voice, while there is a chance

that it may not be overpowered by the rattling of carriages during a canvas through the county. Accordingly, I shall place before my brother-freeholders the thoughts which occurred to me upon reading the first literary production of our young Candidate from Rutland.

This Address appears to me little less surprising, than it is confessedly premature*.

Besides

* To the GENTLEMEN, CLERGY, and FREE-HOLDERS of the County of LINCOLN.

GENTLEMEN,

AN address from me, at the present period, may appear a little premature; but I feel it a pleasant and an honourable duty, and incumbent upon me, to return my most respectful acknowledgments and sincere thanks to very many friends, worthy Electors of the County of Lincoln, for their partiality to me, and the cordial and unsolicited offers of their support to place me in the distinguished situation of a Representative of the County in Parliament, upon the present vacancy.—But, as it might have hazarded the peace of the County,

Besides the *legal* qualifications for a Knight of a Shire, there are *three others* which I have been accustomed to look for, and in the Members for this county have always found; namely, an esta-

County, I am persuaded I shall meet their approbation, in cheerfully sacrificing my wishes to the preservation of it; confidently trusting, that I may look forward and cherish the very flattering hope of their support and renewed exertions in my favour at the next General Election; as I beg leave to intimate to the worthy Electors of the County of Lincoln, and particularly to my numerous and respected friends, that it is my intention on that occasion to make a tender of my services, which shall ever be devoted to the interests of the County, and the support of the Constitutional Laws of the Kingdom.

I have the honour to be,

With the greatest deference and respect,

Gentlemen,

Your faithful and obedient humble servant,

GILBERT HEATHCOTE.

NORMANTON-PARK;

August 27th, 1794.

blished

blished character for independency, a competent knowledge of county business, and a residence within the county.

As to the first: By independency I mean, a spirit which sets a man above the fear of offending any one by a faithful discharge of his duty. I do not wish, that the Knight of a Shire should shew his perverse independency, by constantly putting a drag-chain upon the wheels of Government: For, the more he clogs them, in any manner, unnecessarily, the more we must pay for oil to keep them a going. Neither do I forbid him, on the other hand, to look forward to a more elevated dignity, as the recompense of long and able services to his country. Few men have stronger pretensions to such elevation, than faithful Knights of Shires. I require him only, not to sacrifice his duty to such views.

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In some particulars, I would have him display a spirit of independency, even towards the freeholders whom he represents. When they desire any thing incompatible with the general good of the kingdom, as local interests sometimes prompt men to do; then I would have him consider himself as a *Member of Parliament*; as delegated, on account of his *eminent character* for wisdom and integrity, to deliberate and determine for *his countrymen generally and equally*; for those who have no vote in any election whatever, and who have no *rational* cause of complaint on that score, while Parliament continues to act, as it does, upon this comprehensive principle.

I should be sorry, also, to see him courting the favour of freeholders by an indiscriminate *hospitality*; by suffering either his town-residence to be made a
 tavern,

tavern, or his country-seat a victualling-house, to every impudent intruder that has a vote to give or with-hold from him. He may hear, at proper hours, what any of his electors or other neighbours have to say; and in this way he may gather, with caution, some useful truths; though, after all, an intimate acquaintance with the county can alone guard him from being imposed upon by interested information. But it is one thing, to hear what a man has to say, and another, to coax him with a notice and distinction to which he has no reasonable pretensions. Indeed, I dislike the *coaxing* of freeholders by any device whatever; even by subscribing largely to support the noble diversion of *fox-burting*. But I do not apprehend that opportunities of practising this device can often occur; because I conceive there

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are not many fox-hunting parties in the kingdom that would *accept* their chief support from a gentleman, whose residence three score miles from the scene of the diversion must generally preclude his joining in it.

These are some of my expectations with regard to the independency of character in a County Member. But what can be said of *any* young man of *twenty**, in these respects, except that he has *no character at all*? He is about to form and establish one; but his nearest friends, even his tutor, cannot pronounce with any assurance what it will be.

* It appears from the newspaper account of the rejoicings at Normanton, on Sir G.'s COMING OF AGE, that the date of this auspicious event is Oct. 4, 1794. The date of his ADDRESS is Aug. 27, 1794.

To the numerous freeholders of this extensive county Sir Gilbert's embryo-character must be generally unknown, whatever may be *prognosticated* about it by the few freeholders of Rutland. Indeed we know not in Lincolnshire what conjectures even *they* have formed. The celebrated Mr. Brothers had lately some fellow-prophets in Rutland, not far from Wissendine, who are said to have sold their estates, and joined him in London, with a view to another *crusade*; but I do not hear that they made any prognostications about the future character of Sir Gilbert. For my part, I have heard some things for, and nothing against him: "Tros, *Rutulusve*, fuat;"—I will do him justice. The *personal service* of himself and his family, in the internal defence of the kingdom, is a matter of most just commendation.

tion *. The volunteer forces, legally appointed, have most nobly seconded the efforts of his Majesty's other forces, in the defence of their country. They have maintained its internal peace by the happiest of all means,—laying their hands upon their swords, and shewing themselves *prepared* to maintain it. Patriotism more true, more seasonable, or more salutary, was never exhibited in England. It is not, therefore, *Sir Gilbert Heathcote*, (whom I revere on this

* I would the same spirit prevailed a little more in LINCOLNSHIRE! The number of gentlemen in this county,—heads of ancient families, and possessing ample estates (or heirs apparent of such) and of an Age not too stiff for a LITTLE military discipline—is large. But the number of such Gentlemen who have actually stood forward in this important business (exclusive of the militia) what is it?— A short classical quotation will express this number most tenderly:

—en quatuor! VIRG.

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account,)

account,) but it is *every man* of his short standing in the world, that seems to me to want the *first* qualification for representing a County in Parliament.

With respect to the *second*—a competent knowledge of county-business, or of any public business whatever—the tender years of Sir Gilbert render *many* remarks cruel and unnecessary. But *one* is too important to be omitted. What sort of a Representative do we want, as well on other accounts, as particularly to forward our great works of *Drainage*; which, after all that we have done, remain very imperfect? To what sort of a man should we look for assistance*, in removing that scandal to the county, the horrible collection of

* I hope that no man shrinks from representing the county, in order to avoid a sort of necessity of giving this assistance.

waters in THE FENS on its *eastern* side, which at present yield us little ^{*else*} less than pestilential air, rotten sheep, starved geese, and stunted cattle—instead of grain and meat in a glorious abundance? Various contending claims will probably obstruct the great work of apportioning these 40,000 acres. *Great men* (as usual) will not be satisfied without *great shares* *. And whenever we enter upon the business, we shall have many calls to make on the patience, impartiality, disinterestedness, and *knowledge* of our Representatives in Parliament.

* I have heard (with pleasure rather than surprise) that the principal claimants, the Duchy Court of Lancaster and its Lessee, would be satisfied with an equitable and reasonable share, far less than the county was once (perhaps insidiously) taught to believe that they would demand; and if they be themselves thus exemplary, I hope they will do us the further kindness to insist that other great claimants shall be so too.

Now

Now supposing this knowledge to be even as premature in Sir Gilbert, as the Address which I am considering; yet we may expect that he is turning his mind towards *foreign travel*; in order, among other things, to improve his own country by what he finds good, and to defend it from what he sees bad in others. Happy as Englishmen are, if they knew their own happiness, yet some hints might doubtless be gathered in other countries for our further improvement. And as to warnings against what is bad, Europe now presents to us a harvest of them most unfortunately abundant.

In case then of this peregrination; (and perhaps in many other cases) as a single Member, however active, is presumed to be insufficient for this extensive county, I foresee the business of it left to a Steward; a very worthy man

Now

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as I hear, and of personal consequence enough to be mistaken by strangers for his Principal; but not one, at whose levee the Gentlemen of the county, having business to conduct, would feel themselves comfortable in attending. There is an old-fashioned pride still subsisting among these men; which induces them to fancy, that they are not all of them utterly unequal to the transaction of the county-business, and that they have no occasion to import either an Assistant, or a Deputy-Assistant, from any of the charitable counties around them.

However, if nothing less than a *Shire* can satisfy the ambition of our young Knight-*Errant*, might not *Rutland* be sufficient for him at present? May he not hope for better success there in his own person, his office of Sheriff being discharged,

discharged, than he found for his Relation on the 26th of September, 1795? —that *glorious* day for the *independency* of Rutland; on which the *freeholders* made a choice that has filled all the surrounding counties with *admiration!* And might not *one* of the present Knights judiciously betake himself to some of the many cities or Boroughs in the kingdom, which are apt to like a man the better for having never seen or heard of him before? Of this propensity the city of Lincoln seldom fails to give a proof, once in seven years. The boroughs of Grimsby and Boston, also, have shewn no great dislike to novel faces; insomuch that a man fresh imported from the East-Indies has for once had excellent success in one of them; and other men, as much known there, have *all but* succeeded in the other.

At

At this moment, a Stratagem is said to be formed against this latter Borough, that would do credit to Marshall Clerfaye. A strong *detachment* of Burgesses, regularly enlisted, though not inured to *service*, are to escort their General, and perhaps one of his Aid de camps, to Parliament. Grantham and Stamford indeed are prevented from distinguishing themselves in any such ways, by the kind and *constitutional* care of the noble personages in their neighbourhoods.

The *third* qualification appears to me, on some accounts, even more indispensable than the other two.

A Member for a *County* should be an *inhabitant* of it*. Here it is that I make

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* By stat. 23 Hen. VI. c. 14. (and some other statutes) this was a NECESSARY QUALIFICATION. These were repealed by stat. 14 Geo. III. c. 58.

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my chief stand, in objecting to Sir Gilbert Heathcote. *Here* I invoke my brother-freeholders to consult alike their honour and their quiet. Shall we confess that the county of Lincoln, which may be compared to a spacious and noble mansion, is unable to furnish within itself two fit Representatives in Parliament? And *must we* fetch one of them out of such a mouse-hole as Rutland? Forbid it all the feelings of Gentlemen, and of men!

But, passing the matter of *Honour*; shall we suffer any neighbouring county

The propriety of this repeal, as to SHIRES, may well be doubted. And as to CITIES and BOROUGHs, the FORMAL REPEAL of the old statutes was an important change in our CONSTITUTION. (By our CONSTITUTION I mean, the Government of this kingdom, as by Law established.) It laid them DIRECTLY open to influence and intrusion from every quarter.

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to throw among us, once in every seven years, the apple of *Discord*? And shall we retain the bitter taste of it, in shynesses, animosities, and heart-burnings, till the same fatal septennial gift is again presented to us? Let us vehemently say “No: The Knights of our Shire shall, both of them, have their principal mansions, and chief residence, *bona fide*, within it. If either of them lives an inch beyond *the line*, he may as well live in the furthest part of the kingdom. Without such a rule as this, our peace will be continually disturbed by our opulent Borderers. It is no matter where his *property* lies: we are to be represented by, and communicate with, *him*, and not his *acres*. We will have the *man himself* among us. And we will not be dragged out of our own county, to confer with our Members on the business

of it, except to London during the Session of Parliament. *There* indeed we shall rejoice to hear of their diligent attending; and shall account them as well engaged, as in running down all the foxes, slaughtering the birds, or advertising, menacing, and bringing to *justice*, all the *unqualified rascals* in the County*.”

But now, quitting heroics and the *plural* number, let me ask, If *one* of our
Members

* When, upon the final determination of such a question, as THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE-TRADE, (to say nothing about many other questions) only 144 Members conceive it to be their duty to attend the House of Commons; one cannot forbear to ask, Why are 558 sent thither? and to hope that the sooner a dissolution of Parliament happens, the sooner this insufferable neglect of duty, and this outrage against decency, in gentlemen on BOTH sides of the question, will be noticed and corrected.

Many persons are now seeking, professedly, a REFORM of Parliament, with a real view of subverting it.

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Members may live in *Rutland*, why is this exclusive privilege, of deserting us, assigned to *him*?—And why may not the other claim our consent to live in any of the contiguous counties of York, Nottingham, Leicester, Northampton, Cambridge, or Norfolk? A few additional *stage coaches* would carry freeholders, upon any business, to the residence of one Member; and then, *across their own County*, to the residence of the

A reform in one respect, however, would stand clear of all danger; and that is, an enforcement of a much more regular attendance of the members on all parliamentary duties. By the way, this would save the trouble of SOLICITING attendance, by letters and message-cards, on PRIVATE as well as public bills; a practice, which to old fashioned persons appears not a little indecorous.

The nation in general is yet decidedly with parliament, and I hope will long continue to be so; but the strongest attachments may be weakened and dissolved by needless and habitual neglects.

other.

other. By which means, a knowledge of the state of our *Agriculture* (among other things) would inevitably be acquired, almost as accurate and perfect, as that obtained by the ingenious Mr. Stone, from his birds-eye view during his late *flight* over Lincolnshire. In which case, I cannot forbear to paint to myself the placid looks, and to imagine the agreeable sensations, of our old Lincolnshire families, when they drink after dinner (as is usual in Clubs) *to the bealth of our absent Members.*

When I express so much satisfaction at the residence of our Knights in London, I must be supposed to speak of it only as implying an attendance on their important duties in *Parliament*. It would give me *no* pleasure to hear of their frequent meetings (except for purposes merely convivial) at the Thatched House

House Tavern;—of taking the *sense of the County* at a *Lincolnshire Club*; which, however personally respectable, has not yet received a deputation to judge of all county matters for those who reside constantly upon their estates in the country. We have a *Shire-Hall* (though as a structure it does us no great credit,) in which any extraordinary public business can be transacted, and especially *County Elections* can be settled, with more general convenience and satisfaction than in the fairest building in London. But here some late transactions, in many more shires than one, impel me to remind HIGH-SHERIFFS, that the calling of county-meetings on *Saturdays*, is neither civil towards the clergy, nor tending to any real advantage of the laity. As to the former; it is beckoning to them with one hand,

and

and pushing them back with the other, a mode of invitation somewhat hibernian in its conception, and certainly not british in point of liberality. With regard to the laity; I can see no other advantage in *their* assembling at the county-town on Saturday; than that they may travel home again on Sunday, and so not have *a lost day*. Now, whatever a few superior geniuses may think concerning Religion (when they think about it at all) I believe that those among the Gentry of Lincolnshire, towards whom we are accustomed to look with the greatest respect, do reverence it sincerely. And I am sure that these are not the times, in which *any* man will shew an open contempt of it in the face of the world; unless he wishes to discourage and disarm all persons who are attached to our subsisting order of things;

things; and to create,—and expose his country to the furious aggressions of,—a lawless, unprincipled, savage, atheistical, frenchified multitude. Since I am very far from imputing such thoughts and wishes to any High-Sheriff of *our own*, I can only lament that inadvertency and inconsideration have lately caused, in this respect, very just offence to many sober-minded persons amongst us.

With regard to the *wording* of this notable Address, some remarks are sufficiently obvious. I do not mean to question either the elegance or the critical exactness of its style. In Knights of Shires we look to more important things than these. They are dispensed with, in these personages, in all parts of the kingdom; as the *Advertisements* before and after a General Election never fail to testify. The Agents on these

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occasions are oftener men of business than of letters. The *Chaplain* is engaged perhaps in keeping the voters in good humour; he cannot always be at hand; and possibly might be so in vain.

But let me ask, Was it likely, on the last occasion, that we should elect a gentleman, whose unripe years incapacitated him from voting or sitting in the House of Commons? And if the statute 7 and 8 W. c. 25. * remains unrepealed, I *believe* this was actually

* "No person hereafter shall be CAPABLE OF BE-
"ING ELECTED a Member to serve in this, or ANY
"FUTURE Parliament, who is not of the age of one-
"and-twenty years: and every election or return of
"any person under that age is hereby declared to be
"NULL AND VOID: and if any such Member here-
"after chosen shall PRESUME TO SIT OR VOTE in
"Parliament, he shall incur such penalties and for-
"feitures as if he had presumed to sit and vote in
"Parliament without being chosen or returned." 7
and 8 W. c. 25. s. 8.

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the case with Sir Gilbert. The Election was Sept. 18, 1794. He came of age (as we hear) on or about Oct. 4, 1794. Now, though we are contented, and have always been, as far as my memory extends, without *eloquent* Representatives, and perhaps are as well without them; yet we should hardly choose to have them absolutely *dumb*, that is, incapable of voting; and not only dumb, but *deaf* too; or, which is the same thing, excluded from hearing the deliberations of Parliament; except by an indulgence—in a situation which they must *beg* to be admitted to—not very consistent with their dignity—in a *gallery*—among the multitude.

If we certainly should not have elected such a Representative, then Sir Gilbert's *sacrifice* to the peace of the county was not a *substantial* one; it was a sa-

crifice without a *victim*, merely smoke and vapour.

But if he *was*, on the day of Election, qualified to sit and vote, why did he not urge his pretensions *then*, rather than postpone them to the *General Election*? When there was an actual vacancy in the representation, no man could be justly accused of disturbing the peace of the county, who had made a tender to it of his faithful services. It was then open to all; and with reason would the freeholders have thanked any man of character, ability, and property, usually residing among them, who would have undertaken to serve them without any improper views, either of interest or ambition.

Whatever *sincerity* there was in these professions about the peace of the county, there was undoubtedly a *discretion* beyond

beyond the years of Sir Gilbert. For it was very unlikely, that the freeholders in the *northern* division of this county (though Kesteven and Holland may be doomed so to submit) would consent to have one Member whose residence is near its southern extremity, and another whose residence was not within it all. Neither would he have found it very easy, to resist successfully his *Competitor* on that occasion; whose venerable Father (knowing *precisely* the value of a Seat in Parliament) would probably have displayed in his behalf some of that honest energy and vehemence with which nature has so liberally endowed him.

But now, what is to become of this *precious* peace at the approaching General Election*? Has our Member in the *four* last Parliaments declared his inten-

* See the Dialogue subjoined.

tion

tion of retiring? or have the freeholders expressed their wish that he would do so? I reside constantly in Lincolnshire, and have heard neither of these things. Are we to have that most undesirable of all contests, a contest of purses? I trust there is too much spirit in this county to suffer an old and tried Friend to be elbowed out of his place by the overpowering fortune of a young, untried, and somewhat forward Acquaintance.

The established rule has been, one Member from the Division of Lindsey, and the other from the rest of the county. A rule more equitable, or more conducive to our quiet, cannot be devised. Those who are now seeking to violate this rule, whoever they be, may talk about their tender regard for our *peace*, and pathetically deplore the sad effects of splitting a great county into parties.

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But who is it that works this abominable mischief? They who would maintain the rule established to secure our quiet; or they who contemptuously trample upon it, and then call upon us to join them for the sake of *the county's peace*? I must suppose they have adopted the ideas of a shrewd man, who being asked what was meant by a phrase in every body's mouth, the Duty of consulting the peace of the town—answered—joining the party which seems *strongest*, right or wrong. But let these loquacious patrons of our peace be assured, that whatever resemblance may be supposed to exist betwixt the county of Lincoln, (particularly the fens of it) and the celebrated county of ΒΛΟΤΙΑ; yet our atmosphere is not quite so thick, nor our apprehensions so very dull, that we cannot perceive a mighty variance betwixt
their

their professions and their actions. And let the great freeholders in the northern part of our county beware of *joining* their strength, for the purpose of forcing upon us *one of their own neighbours, and one foreigner*. They may perhaps be taught, that Kesteven and Holland can be roused to attempt the honor of two Members, by an insulting plan to preclude them from sending one*. They may find, that the number of freeholders in the southern parts of the county is not to be altogether despised by the swarms from the *northern hive*; nor will be as easily overpowered by them, as

* I presume that the Division of Lindsey will not aspire to the honor of supplying the County with two Members, on the ground of any superior merit in contributing to our internal Defence; for I have not yet heard that it has furnished one solitary volunteer. And yet, it constitutes the half, at least, of the extensive County of Lincoln.

degenerate

dégenerate Romans once were by the irruption of Goths and Vandals.

The County was, a few years since, sufficiently supine in all public concerns; insomuch that the King, on receiving an Address from it, upon one of the late occasions, is said to have pleasantly observed to his attendants, that he had forgot that Lincolnshire was a part of his dominions. But there seems to have been lately a considerable portion of life and vigour infused in it. I could say from what quarter it has probably proceeded; but I am no more the flatterer than the traducer of any man. Our Gentry begin to be known in the rest of England; and I hope they will be known as strenuous asserters of their independency, and as having men *among* them well qualified to conduct their parliamentary concerns.

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For,

For, if we must deal capriciously with our old Member, are there not men resident in the county, fit candidates for our favour? I do not intimate who they are; because I write not to serve the purpose of any man. But of several it may doubtless be said most truly, that they maintain in their own persons that revered character, which their families have supported during many generations.

Upon the whole, this Address appears to me inconsiderate, indecorous, and presumptuous; and if the spirit of Lincolnshire be not sunk past all recovery, I trust the Address will produce an effect just opposite to that which was intended,—by uniting the freeholders in a general resistance to this unnecessary, unwarrantable, and unprecedented intrusion.

A

A DIALOGUE,

(EXPLANATORY OF THE ADDRESS)

BETWEEN

Sir G. H. and a Plain Lincolnshire Freeholder.

September 18th, 1794.

FREEHOLDER.

I CAME to Lincoln, Sir Gilbert, to the late Nomination (as they call it) to hold up my hand for you, understanding that you meant to be our Parliament-man. How came you to disappoint us?

Sir G. H. Sir, I am obliged, infinitely obliged to you. Very many friends, worthy electors, like yourself, of the

county of Lincoln, (as I stated in my Address which you have doubtless seen) from their great partiality to me, had offered me their support. Their *names* indeed are yet a secret. But, good Sir, *the peace of the county* might have been endangered by my acceptance at present of the honor of representing it. And to that peace what would I not *sacrifice*?

Freeholder. Right, Sir Gilbert, right. Why should we all be looking shy at one another for seven years together? It's a noble sacrifice. I'm so pleased with it, I'll give you my vote as long as I can speak. Then you mean to wait till there's another vacancy.

Sir G. H. Till the next General Election, Sir.

Freeholder. O! then the young Gentleman, that's come in *to-day*, will be
tired

tired of Parliament in two years, will he? Aye, young men are often changing their fancies. But 'tis rather soon, for him to say so.

Sir G. H. You mistake me, Sir: he will not be tired, I believe; but will again solicit the honor of your support.

Freeholder. Then the good old Gentleman, who has served us this many years, he thinks it time to retire. Well! a man cannot work all his life long: a little rest should come at last.

Sir G. H. No, Sir; you have not yet guess'd right. He has intimated no such thing.

Freeholder. Then it *must* be, that we are to have *three* Members; and this is the Reformation of Parliament they talk so much about. For my part, I think the nation has already as many as they
can

can pay. *Ray*, did I say? I call that word back again. They are apt to make such a bouncing about *a wry word or two* which a man may let fall, (especially if he nettles some of 'em who durst not complain of the real offence) that I believe the safest way is, to say nothing at all about 'em.

Sir G. H. Sir, there will still, I believe, be only *two* Members. But if the *old gentleman* (as you call him) should find that it is my Intention to make a tender of my services to the county, he may think it wise not to stand a contest; and then there will be the vacancy required; and Peace, the object nearest to my heart, will be preserved inviolate.

Freeholder. What! would you turn out a Man whom I have voted for ever since I had a vote to give?

Sir

Sir. G. H. No, Sir; by no means, I would only set before him *a reasonable motive for withdrawing himself*. You see, Sir, the wide difference.

Freeholder. No: I don't. I see no difference at all. But I can see one thing; —that you are determined to be in for the county, whatever mischief may come of it. Is this your care, Sir Gildert, for our *peace*? However, I'll do you the justice to say, I don't believe this Address was of your own contriving. I still think much better of you. A *young* man would have dealt more openly with us, than to talk about sacrificing to our peace to day, when he meant that this peace should be sacrificed to *him* two Years hence. But the *old politician* (whoever he was that wrote it) has over shot the mark a little. For in one part of the Address he makes you

say

say, that you would not hazard the peace of the county; when, in truth, there was a place vacant for any proper body that would ask for it: And in another part (now that you've *explained* it to me) it is pretty clear that you'll hazard any thing, rather than not come in at the next General Election. Just like some Patriots (as they call themselves) now alive; who would rather see the kingdom in flames, than not rule it themselves. Remember, Sir, I did not promise you my vote on such terms. I'll keep it for a man who will care for our peace one year as much as another. And when we can't find such a man; our votes, freeholds, elections, members, and the county itself, may all go to any person, who thinks that in such a case they are things worth having and keeping.

POSTSCRIPT.

I HAVE just seen an apology for declining to vote on the Slave-Trade, which appears to me very deserving of attention.

The Member tells his Constituents, that he detests the Trade, but dislikes the *mode* of abolishing it. He thinks that the public should make a *compensation* for the Loss which would ensue from the abolition of a practice sanctioned and encouraged by former parliaments. And he observes, that neither the Petitions for abolishing have proposed, nor does ministry favour, such a compensation. Abhorring to vote *against the Abolition*, and unwilling to be unjust to any man, he abstained from voting.

If

If I thought that this fair reason had operated with *three or four hundred* other members, on March 15, 1796, I would burn this little book, rather than publish some of the Remarks at page 22.

But there is no ground for supposing that it had so very *extensive* an operation. And I fear that the thin attendance on that day may be ascribed, partly, to a fear of offending particular bodies of electors, at a juncture somewhat critical; but chiefly to that frivolous inattention to solid and important duties, by which the present age in general, and not any body of men in particular, is unhappily distinguished.

FINIS.